GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:123
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
SHORTAGE OF COAL
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of coal to meet the domestic demand including that of thermal power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the quantity of coal supplied to the thermal power plants in the country during the last three years and the current year and the present stock of coal in various thermal power plants in the country;

(d) whether coal is being imported to tide over the situation ;

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and

(f)the other steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coal ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.123 FOR 25.2.2009

(a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no acute shortage of coal. However, as per Annual Plan 2008-09, Planning Commission has estimated that as against the estimated raw coal demand of 550 Million Tonnes (506 MT non-coking coal and 44 MT coking coal), the indigenous availability would be 497.29 Million Tonnes, which will leave a gap of 52.71 Million tonnes (25.05 MT of coking coal and 27.66 MT non coking coal). This gap is likely to be met through imports by consumers from different sectors.

(c): The details of supply of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) to thermal power plants (power utilities) during the last three years and during April, 2008 to January, 2009 are given below:-

Year	Coal supplies made by CIL to power utilities (million tonnes)	Coal supplies made by SCCL to power utilities (million tonnes)	Total coal supplies made
2005-06	256.40	25.53	281.93
2006-07	261.80	26.88	288.68
2007-08	280.00	29.85	309.85
2008-09 (April 2008 to January 2009)(provl.)	242.80	24.62	267.42

(d) & (e): By and large, the coal demand in the country, including coal demand of power utilities, was met by indigenous sources. However, some consumers including power sector are importing coal due to limited indigenous availability of coking coal and low ash non-coking coal, environmental considerations, location specific landed cost, increase in Plant Load Factor, building up of stocks by power utilities etc.
The total coal imported during 2005-06 to 2008-09 (upto Aug.2008) is given below:-

Year	Total coal imports (million tonnes)

2005-06 38.57
2006-07 45.00
2007-08 49.79
2008-09 (upto 24.93
Aug.2008)(provl.)

(f): Following measures have been taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coal:-

(i) a comprehensive New Coal Distribution Policy has been introduced to streamline distribution including supply of coal in terms of Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs).
(ii) a large number of coal blocks have been allocated to augment indigenous availability of coal.
(iii) supply of coal to critical sectors like power, cement and steel is closely monitored by the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee headed by Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.
(iv) an Inter-Ministerial Sub-group, presently headed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, regularly reviews the coal stock position in various power utilities which are having less than 7 days coal stock and take appropriate and plant specific measures to ensure that adequate coal supplies are maintained to such power plants.
(v) Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies and Singareni Collieries Company Limited are augmenting coal production by introduction of high capacity shovels and dumpers, mechanization of underground coal mines, by taking up of new coal projects etc.